

# Weed Clippers Catching On

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

Herbicide resistant weeds and expanded organic crop production are driving renewed interest in mechanical weed control. A number of European companies are offering weed clippers of varying styles. The CombCut from Sweden (Vol. 40, No. 3) was introduced in the North American market several years ago. The Weed Surfer has been available since early 2020 and the Top Cut Collect soon will be.



Top Cut Collect trims weeds above crop and retains trimmings for off-field disposal.

## Zurn Top Cut Collect

“My primary focus is bringing mechanical weed control systems to the U.S.,” says Michael Kathalynas, Zurn USA Inc. “That includes the Garford Robocrop (Vol. 40, No. 3) previously introduced and the Top Cut Collect, which we are planning to introduce this spring.”

As its name suggests, the Top Cut Collect trims grasses and weeds that have emerged above the crop. It was developed by Zurn and Romain Bouillé, a French farmer and technician. It retains the trimmings for off-field disposal. The goal is to reduce the weed seed bank in the soil.

Components include folding booms with double cut knives, helical reels and conveyor belts. The belts transport clipped material from each boom to a central conveyor that moves them to the trailing, high-dump hopper. The booms fold for transport. Working widths include 30, 40 and 60 ft. with a transport width when folded of less than 10 ft. Kathalynas says the Top Cut Collect will range in price from \$65,000 to \$85,000 with all widths available by late spring.

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Weed Surfer cuts with ten 4-blade rotors. Operating height ranges from 12 to 39 in.

## CTM Weed Surfer

The CTM Weed Surfer weighs only 1,500 lbs., but carries ten, 4-blade rotors for a 21-ft. cutting width. It is also available in a 30-ft. wide model.

“It was originally developed to control bolting in sugar beets,” says Michael Scott, who imported the Weed Surfer for use on his organic farm. “When organic farmers showed interest, the company added the extension kit to work with cereals and other crops. I used it this year and was quite impressed.”

The extension brackets give it an operating height range of 12 to 39 in. It has an operating speed of up to 9 mph and can be mounted front or rear.

Scott imported 4 of the 30-ft. models and has since sold one. He has them priced at \$35,000 (Canadian) FOB, northern Alberta.

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Hydraulic motors drive individual rotating knives on the SELAC Weedcutter.

## Bionalan SELAC Weedcutter

The Bionalan SELAC Weedcutter can be mounted front or rear and is available in 5 models with working widths of 14 to 43 ft. Hydraulic motors drive individual rotating knives. Power can be provided by an optional pto-mounted hydraulic pump. Cutting heights can vary from 6 in. to 6 ft. with ground tracking wheel heights adjusted manually.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bionalan, 31 Grande Rue, 08210 Euilly Et Lombut France (ph 33 3 24 22 20 60; info@bionalan.fr; www.bionalan.fr/en/).



W-Cutter uses electric motor-driven rotors equipped with thin steel chains.

## W-Cult W-Cutter

Electric motor-driven rotors with 2 thin steel chains provide the cutting action on the W-Cutter from Finland. The top cutter comes in 3 models from 25 to 40 ft. in width with optional support wheels for the 2 side booms. The center boom mounts to a tractor's front-end loader or a front lift mount.

If needed, electric power is provided by a rear-mount, pto-driven generator. Power needs range from 35 to 45 kW depending on the model.

The hydraulic side booms can be folded together for transit or separately when avoiding an object in the field. When both are folded, the W-Cutter has a transport width of less than 9 ft.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, W-Cult Oy, Luvian Kirkkotie 30, 29100 Luvia, Satakunta, Finland (ph 358 400 715 728; markku.weckman@w-cult.fi; www.w-cult.fi).



ETR Topper rotors are fitted with 4 boomerang-shaped blades.

## ETR Breton Topper

French ETR Breton is marketing the ETR Topper. Each 3-rotor section is powered by a hydraulic motor and housed under a stainless steel hood. Rotors are fitted with 4 boomerang-shaped blades. The Topper comes in 5 sizes, ranging from a manually folded 15-ft. width to an all-hydraulic 41-ft. version. The 2 larger models fold outer sections horizontally and then vertically for a 7-ft. transit width.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, ETR Breton, 12 Rue Des Varennes, 10140 Vendevre-sur-Barse, France (ph 03 25 41 36 65; www.etrbreton.fr).



Meneguzzo weed topper uses star-shaped rotors equipped with cutterbar knife blades.

## Meneguzzo LOP

The Italian company Meneguzzo offers a modular weed topper with a unique pendulum suspension-style front mount. Toothed belts run from a hydraulic motor on each boom to that boom's star-shaped rotors. Each of the 4 tips on the rotors ends with a single cutter bar knife blade. The base unit has a 21-ft. width. Extensions can be added for 29 and 40-ft. widths.

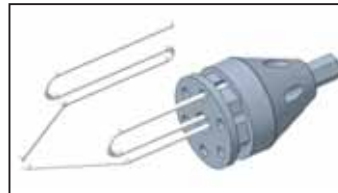
Video available at [www.farmshow.com](http://www.farmshow.com).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Meneguzzo s.r.l., via Madonna di Poggio 5, 40023; Castel Guelfo di Bologna BO, Italy (ph 39 339 6941881; [www.meneguzzo.eu](http://www.meneguzzo.eu)).

## Time-Saving T-Post Fence Clip System

Keeping fence wires tight is fast and easy with Rosbin's patented new T-post fence clip and tool kit. The twist design draws the wire tight.

The kit consists of a specially designed clip that fits around the T-post, and a tool that fits into a cordless drill. You place the clip around the post and over the wire, then use the drill with the tool to bend the prongs around the wire.



Specially designed fence clip comes with a prong on each side. They fit into any of the perimeter holes on a circular "cradle" tool that attaches to your cordless drill.

“My friend Rodney Corbin and I developed this new method to put up or straighten T-post fences. We built a special machine to manufacture the product. Now we're ready to market it,” says Ajit Rose.

The clip comes with a prong on each side that looks somewhat like a straightened-out paper clip.

The tool has a hexagon shaft at one end and a circular “cradle” at the other end, with 6 holes at the perimeter and one in the middle.

“The cradle helps the operator align the tool and the clip with relative ease,” says Rose. “The operator places the clip on the wire, then inserts a prong into any of the perimeter holes. As he pulls the drill's trigger and holds it down, the rest of the prong is quickly drawn into the middle hole and pushes the tool off the wire as it tightens the clip around it. The operator then repeats the process on the other side.”

He says the key was coming up with a clip with just the right bend length and angle to tie the clip to the wire perfectly tight. “It works fast - each clip can be tied in less than 10 seconds from start to finish,” says Rose.



Drill is used to bend prongs one at a time around fence wire. “It's safe to use and works fast,” says Ajit Rose.

“Once tied, the clip stays on forever. It's very safe to use because your hands stay clear of the wire with almost no chance to get cut on barbs. And the clip is the same on both sides, so it doesn't matter whether you're left or right handed.

“The only limitation is the clip ties so tight that it can't be removed from the wire. Also, the T-post has to be solidly anchored or the force of the drill could yank it out of the ground.”

The clips are packaged in a biodegradable cardboard scabbard that loops onto your belt or pants pocket. “The design makes it easy to remove the clips one at a time, without them getting tangled up,” says Rose.

A package of 12 clips sells for \$1.39 plus S&H. The cradle tool sells for \$29 plus S&H. You can watch a video of the fence clip and tool on [www.farmshow.com](http://www.farmshow.com).

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